

For Immediate Release
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Senate Majority Leader Sikkema Issues Statement on Ford Announcement

'Ford's plans emphasize the need for a new focus for Michigan'

Lansing - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, issued the following statement today following Ford Motor Co.'s announcement that it was closing its facility in Wixom:

"My thoughts are with those Ford workers directly impacted, but also with the thousands of Michigan families who will be indirectly affected by this economic blow to Michigan. Just as Ford and GM have restructured, Michigan must as well. We need to show the world we are serious about change and eliminate this environment of uncertainty that is turning job providers away from our state.

"Today's announcement highlights the need to accelerate the state's efforts to reposition Michigan for the new economy. This shift in the manufacturing-based economy emphasizes the need for a new focus for Michigan. Reforming K-12 education, emphasizing the need for higher education, restraining government spending, and supporting small businesses - including tax cuts and regulatory reform - are necessary for our survival."

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